

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5052

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3830

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGD: EAID CA

SUBJECT: DR. ADAMS' VISIT TO OTTAWA

REF: STATE 256888

1. SUMMARY. ON NOVEMBER 22 DR. ADAMS MET TWITH CIDA OFFICIALS, INCLUDING CIDA PRESIDENT GERIN-LAJOIE, AND WITH EXTAFF OFFICIALS INCLUDING TWO ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARIES. FOLLOWING DR. ADAMS' PRESENTATION OF HIS IDEAS RE FORUM FOR SAHEL DONOR COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF REGION, CIDA OFFICIALS APPREARED MORE INTERESTED IN U.S. IDEAS ON POSSIBLE REQUIREMENT FOR SPECIAL FUND WHEREAS EXTAFF OFFICIALS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT DAC VENUE FOR DISCUSSIONS AND PROBABLE EXCLUSION OF AFRICANS. HOWEVER, GERIN-LAJOIE SEEMED WILLING COMMIT CIDA TO DONOR COUNTRY MEETING UNDER INITIAL DAC AUSPICES AS OUTLINED BY DR. ADAMS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MORNING OF NOVEMBER 22, DR. ADAMS MET WITH FRANCOIS PAULIOT, ACTING DIRECTOR CIDA FRANCOPHONE DIVISION, OTHER CIDA OFFICIALS FROM POLICY AND MULTILATERAL DIVISION AND AN EXTAFF REPRESENTATIVE. DR. ADAMS OUTLINED HIS VIEWS ON NEEDFOR DONOR COUNTRIES TO SAHEL TO BEGIN THINKING ABOUT LONG-RANGE DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR
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THIS REGION AND ON HIS INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH DAC,

FRENCH, GERMAN AND OTHER OFFICIALS ON POSSIBLE DONOR COUNTRY MEETING UNDER INITIAL AEGIS OF DAC. DR. ADAMS POINTED OUT SUCCESS OF FORMER DAC MEETING ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK WHERE DONOR COUNTRIES WERE ABLE TO FOCUS ON BANKS' SHORTCOMINGS AND FUTURE STRENGTHS. HE ALSO PRAISED CANADIAN INITIATIVE IN THIS REGARD.

3. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME INITIAL QUESTIONING OF DAC'S ROLE IN SAHEL DONOR COUNTRY MEETING BECAUSE OF DAC SCHEDULING PROBLEMS, MAJORITY OF QUESTIONS DURING THIS SESSION CENTERED ON FUNDING PROSPECTS. POULIOT AND OTHERS WERE MORE INTERESTED IN DR. ADAM'S VIEWS ON HOW FUND FOR SAHEL COULD BE ESTABLISHED; HOW IT WOULD BE ADMINISTERED, AND WHETHER NEWLY RICH OIL COUNTRIES WOULD CONTRIBUTE.

4. DR. ADAMS' MEETING WITH CIDA PRESIDENT GERIN-LAJOIE WAS EXTREMELY FRIENDLY ENCOUNTER, WITH GERIN-LAJOIE EXPRESSING GREAT APPRECIATION FOR CHANCE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS. DR. ADAMS' SUGGESTION THAT MORE FORMAL AND DETAILED BILATERAL EXCHANGE TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON NEXT JANUARY WAS WELL RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED BY CIDA PRESIDENT.

5. GERIN-LAJOIE ALSO SEEMED MORE INTERESTED IN POSSIBLE FUND TO EVOLVE FROM DONOR COUNTRY MEETING THAN IN COMPLEXITIES OF DAC SPONSORSHIP OF MEETING. AT CLOSE OF MEETING, HE WAS READY COMMIT CIDA TO ATTENDANCE.

6. OTHER TOPICS COVERED BY DR. ADAMS INCLUDED FUTURE AID TO FORMER PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. GERIN-LAJOIE STATED CIDA NOT YET PREPARED CONSIDER BILATERAL AID SINCE MOST OF THESE COUNTRIES NOT YET TOTALLY INDEPENDENT; CIDA MIGHT CONSIDER SOME AID ASSISTANCE THROUGH VOLUNTARY OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUT BASIS POSTURE IS ONE OF WATCHING AND WAITING. ON HEARING OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM'S VISIT TO OTTAWA NEXT MONTH, GERIN-LAJOIE INSTRUCTED POULIOT TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH EXTAFF I ORDER TO BRING CIDA IN ON ANY DISCUSSIONS ON AFRICAN AID SUBJECT.

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7. AT NOON MEETING WITH D'T. FORTIER AND MICHEL DUPUY, EXTAFF ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARIES, DR. ADAMS AGAIN OUTLINED HIS VIEWS ON, AND REASONS FOR, A SAHEL DONOR COUNTRY MEETING. DUPUY AND PARTICULARLY FORTIER WERE CONCERNED ABOUT RESENTMENT BY AFRICANS IF CILSS WAS NOT INVITED AS PARTICIPANT OR OBSERVER. THEY ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBLE DESIRABILITY OF INVOLVING OIL-RICH

COUNTRIES THAT SHOULD BE EXPECTED MAKE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAHEL DEVELOPMENT. FORTIER MADE SUGGESTION THAT IF ONLY DONOR COUNTRIES INVOLVED, MEETING SHOULD HAVE MORE LIMITED PARTICIPATION THAN DAC AND BE LESS FORMAL.

8. AT CLOSE OF MEETING WITH EXTAFF OFFICIALS, THE APPEARED TO BE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT DAC SPONSORSHIP AND DONOR COUNTRY EXCLUSIVITY OF MEETING AND MORE INTERESTED IN FINDING WAYS TO ASSURE AFRICANS THAT MEETING WOULD BE IN AFRICAN SELF-INTEREST AND NOT DESIGNED TO EXCLUDE AFRICANS' PARTICIPATION IN THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

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